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Independent's National Poll on League and Presidency

SIX weeks ago THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT mailed ballots to 100,000 of its subscribers and asked for their vote on two questions: first, their sentiment on the League of Nations; second, their choice for presidential candidates. This ballot, as far as the identity of the subscriber was concerned, was secret. No mark of identification was placed upon the cards sent out and no signature was asked. It seems fair to assume, therefore, that the result of this test vote is as accurate a reflection of sentiment in the thousands of communities where THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT circulates as any that can be recorded, short of the ballot box itself.

In the campaign for the nomination, which draws to a close in the conventions of both parties, the Republican party candidates have more or less ignored the subject of a League of Nations. President Wilson, as the leader and spokesman of the Democratic party has chosen the opposite course. He has insisted that the League of Nations must be an issue in this campaign and he has called on the party to consider itself charged with the great responsibility of conducting a "solemn referendum" on this issue.

True, Mr. Wilson has not received complete support from Democratic party leaders in his efforts to make the League a paramount issue. Senator Reed, as might have been expected, sees only complete disaster for the Democrats if they follow Mr. Wilson's lead, and Mr. Bryan has declared repeatedly that the party representatives in the Senate should adopt the Republican compromise and forsake the attitude that the treaty, as brought back from France by Mr. Wilson, is not susceptible of amendment. But despite defections from his ranks of supporters the President has maintained his position.

That portion of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT's ballot which sought sentiment on the League of Nations was framed with one purpose, and that purpose was to discover whether there is still enough interest in the League to make it an issue in the presidential campaign.



WM. G. McADOO

Three questions were asked and these, with the votes cast on each, are given in the order in which they appeared on the ballot:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| Do you favor the League of Nations without reservations..... | 25,725 |
| Do you favor the League of Nations with reservations | 31,640 |
| Do you oppose U. S. entry into any League of Nations | 22,745 |

A moment's scrutiny of these figures will leave no doubt in any open mind that, as far as the voter is concerned, the League is still a very real and a very live issue.

Out of a total of 80,110 votes, 57,365 are in favor of some kind of a League as opposed to 22,745 "irreconcilables" who are against any kind of a League.

Second in importance to this fact is the evidence which seems to show that while the League has a preponderance of public sympathy and support, the voters are inclined to believe that reservations should be adopted.

THIS would make it seem that the Republicans have misread the public mind entirely on the situation. If, instead of attempting to abandon the League as an issue they were consistent with their advocacy of a League with reservations their position would apparently be much stronger. As it is, President Wilson is in a more commanding position than the opponents of his form of the treaty, despite the fact that he appears to be outvoted on the question of a

League without reservations, for the very reason that he at least stands for the League, and the public unquestionably wants a League in some form. Perhaps the flame of idealism does not burn quite so brightly as it did, but the voters apparently have faith that the League of Nations at least will provide insurance against wars, even if it does not succeed in stopping wars.

Ballots bearing a distinguishing mark were sent to several thousand newspaper editors and the result of this vote closely approximates that received from subscribers. Two hundred and thirty-four editors expressed themselves as favoring a League of Nations without reservations, 369 favored the League with reservations and 107 were opposed to United States entry into the League under any circumstances.

A study of the popular vote by states reveals several interesting facts. Only one state rejected the treaty and this was Illinois. The vote there was: for the League without reservations, 1,360; for the League with reservations, 1,110; against entry into any League, 2,040. Even in Illinois, however, there is a majority in favor of some kind of a League.

California, the home of Hiram Johnson, shows none of that candidate's violent opposition to our participation in a League of Nations. California casts 1,560 votes for the League without reservations, 1,620 votes for the League with reservations, and 1,115 votes against any League. Examination of the state vote shows also that support of the League is not confined to any one or two sections of the country. There is, in fact, a surprising unanimity of opinion revealed by the figures.



HIRAM JOHNSON

WHEREAS the impression has been spread that opposition to the League centered in the Eastern states, the results of this poll show that the East stands as firmly as any section in its demand for some kind of a covenant between nations.

New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Vermont show the following totals: For the League without reservations, 2,855; for the League with reservations, 5,450; against any League, 2,990.

The middle western states, in which group are Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, exhibit a larger balance of sentiment against United States entry into any League but still cast an overwhelming vote in favor of some action which will constitute a safeguard against future wars. The vote in this group is: for the League as it was presented to the Senate, 10,610; for the League with reservations, 11,975; against any League, 10,732.

Grouping the states of the "solid South," going as far east as Maryland and as far west as Texas, brings a slight change in the totals, but only such a one as might be expected from the fact that the League issue long ago developed into a partisan fight. These states cast fewer votes against participation in any League and more votes for the adoption of the Covenant as it stands than the states of any other section. Out of a total of approximately 12,000 votes cast in this division, 5,275 votes are in favor of the League as it stands; 4,495 are in favor of reservations and 2,151 votes against any foreign entanglements whatsoever.

Proceeding now to the West, and grouping the mountain and coast states under one classification, it is found that the sentiment changes slightly, but that advocates of a League, either with or without reservations, far outnumber those who are entirely opposed to such a national venture. Out of 8,500 votes 2,885 are cast in favor of the League as

(Concluded on page 3)